



FACT SHEET

KDHE

Corrective Action Summary
Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant
DeSoto, Kansas

September 1999

INTRODUCTION: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) issued a permit, September 30, 1991, to the United States Army as owner and Hercules Aerospace Company as operator of the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant (SFAAP). The permit allows the storage of hazardous wastes that may be generated by the propellant manufacturing operations. The permit issued under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) also requires investigation of possible releases from past solid waste management.

BACKGROUND: The 1984 Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments to RCRA directs EPA to require corrective action for all releases of hazardous waste and hazardous constituents from solid waste management units (SWMUs) at facilities which are issued permits for treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous wastes. For SFAAP, the requirements to investigate and study releases from SWMUs are included in Part 2 of the permit which was issued by EPA. The permit identifies 49 SWMUs that required a RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI). Since the permit was issued, four new SWMUs have been identified. The Army prepared an Environmental Baseline Study Report that identified areas of concern (AOCs) where releases may have occurred.

EPA can require interim measures for SWMUs or AOCs where early action can stop current exposure. No interim measures were required in the permit. The Army has conducted removals at some SWMUs as a precaution. Other SWMUs that were subject to Kansas regulation, such as lagoons and landfills, have been closed.

After the RFI is completed, EPA may require a Corrective Measures Study (CMS) to study the cleanup needed for a SWMU or AOC. Some SWMUs may not have releases, or a risk assessment may show that a release does not require cleanup. These SWMUs will not have a CMS. However, these SWMUs may require restrictions on future uses or long-term monitoring.

SUPERFUND: The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), "Superfund," also requires cleanup of facilities which are listed on the National Priorities List. EPA proposed SFAAP as an addition to the National Priorities List (NPL) on February 13, 1995. EPA has not made a final decision regarding the listing of the site on the NPL. Under CERCLA, the Army can take certain actions. The burning of buildings and removal activities at other areas where explosives may be a physical safety hazard are being conducted by the

Army under Superfund authority.

FACILITY DESCRIPTION: The facility consists of about 9,000 acres near DeSoto, Kansas, and is bordered by Captain Creek on the west and Kill Creek on the east. SFAAP is a government-owned, contractor-operated military installation. The facility was constructed in 1941 to produce nitroglycerin and nitrocellulose for the manufacture of smokeless powder and propellants for small arms, cannons and rockets. Most manufacturing operations ceased in 1971. In the 1980s, a facility was constructed for production of nitroguanidine. That production stopped in 1992. Since then, some portions of the facility have been leased to others for non-military uses such as grazing, aquiculture, agricultural research, commercial wastewater treatment, and sulfuric acid production.

The SWMUs at the facility include landfills, surface impoundments, facilities for managing and treating

waste water (such as sumps, ditches and surface impoundments) and burning grounds.

CORRECTIVE ACTION STATUS: The Army has investigated 52 SWMUs and prepared RFI reports. A CMS study has been completed at four SWMUs. The Army has also prepared a Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment and an Ecological Risk Assessment for the facility. Copies of all of these reports are available for viewing at the information repository below.

PROPERTY TRANSFER: In 1998, the Army determined that the SFAAP was no longer necessary for its mission and declared the facility to be excess property. The United States General Services Administration has the responsibility to dispose of this excess property.

Transfer of the facility does not change the requirement to protect human health or the environment from current or

For More Information

An information repository is established at the Johnson County Public Library, DeSoto Branch, 33145 W. 83rd St., DeSoto, Kansas. Phone 913-583-3106. Copies of reports and administrative records are available for viewing during library hours or at the EPA Information Resource Center, 901 N. 5th St. Kansas City, Kansas from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., weekdays.

EPA representatives will be available, Tuesday, October 26, 1999 at DeSoto High School Auditorium, 35000 W. 91st St., from 4 p.m.- 8 p.m. to answer questions about the cleanup of the facility. A public hearing is

not scheduled. If sufficient interest is shown, a request should be made in writing to EPA Project Manager Ken Herstowski, EPA Region 7, Air, RCRA and Toxics Division, 901 N. 5th St., Kansas City, Kansas 66101. Questions can be made by phone at 913-551-7631, by fax 913-551-7947 or by email to herstowski.ken@epa.gov.

KDHE Project Manager Randy Carlson may be addressed at KDHE Bureau of Environmental Remediation, Building 740, Forbes Field, Topeka, Kansas 66620, phone 785-296-1682 or by email to rcarlson@kdhe.state.ks.us.

future releases of hazardous wastes or hazardous constituents from SWMUs or AOCs. EPA will make sure that any

cleanup is protective of human health and the environment.